NCA
VOC FOR PGM/FN
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PHILIP ERNST

TWO SUMMITS IN THE SUN

ANNCR:

SUMMIT CONFERENCES IN THE SUN ARE POPULAR THIS SEASON -- WITH GOVERNMENT LEADERS FROM INDUSTRIALIZED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES GATHERING THIS WEEK AND NEXT AT TWO FAVORITE CARIBBEAN RESORT SPOTS. VOA'S PHILIP ERNST PROVIDES THIS BACKGROUND REPORT:

VOICE:

LEADERS OF SEVEN NATIONS ARE MEETING THIS WEEK IN JAMAICA TO DISCUSS ECONOMICS. AND THE WESTERN BIG FOUR NATO LEADERS MEET ON THE ISLAND OF GUADELUPE NEXT WEEK TO TALK ABOUT ALMOST EVERYTHING.

THE FORMAT FOR BOTH SESSIONS IN SIMILAR -- INFORMALITY, SECLUSION, AND N O FIXED AGENDA. IT IS DIFFICULT TO GUESS WHAT MAY EMERGE -- GIVEN THE LACK OF AGENDA -- BUT CERTAIN OUTLINES ARE ALREADY CLEAR.

THE JAMAICA MEETING THAT OPENED (TODAY) (THURSDAY) IN RUNAWAY BAY BRINGS TOGETHER THREE LEADERS OF THE THIRD WORLD -- HOST MICHAEL MANLEY, CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ OF VENEZUELA AND OLUSEGUN OBASANJO FROM ONE OF AFRICA'S MOST PROSPEROUS COUNTRIES -- NIGERIA. THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT A FAIRER DEAL FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES -- WHICH FOR THEM MEANS GETTING HIGHER OR MORE STABLE PRICES FOR THEIR RAW MATERIALS FROM THE INDUSTRIALIZED WEST.

THE WEST IS REPRESENTED IN JAMAICA BY WEST GERMANY'S HELMUT SCHMIDT -- THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET ATTENDING, AUSTRALIA'S MALCOLM FRASER, NORWAY'S ODVAR NORDLI AND CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER PIERRE TRUDEAU.

TWO TOPICS THAT WILL GET HEAVY ATTENTION FROM THE SEVEN ARE THE NEED TO STABILIZE THE WORLD PRICE OF CERTAIN KEY COMMODITIES AND THE EFFECT OF RISING OIL PRICES ON THE WORLD ECONOMY.

NEXT WEEK (JAN 5-6), PRESIDENT CARTER, BRITISH PRIME MINISTER JAMES CALLAGHAN, AND MISTER SCHMIDT MEET AT THE INVITATION OF FRENCH PRESIDENT VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING ON THE ISLAND OF GUDADELUPE. GIVEN THEIR CENTRAL POSITION IN WORLD AFFAIRS, THE FOUR COULD AND PROBABLY WILL TALK ABOUT EVERYTHING. BUT IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO POINT TO SOME OF THEIR BIG AND IMMEDIATE WORRIES:

-- THE CRISIS IN IRAN THAT THREATENS INSTABILITY IN A SENSITIVE PART OF THE WORLD AND WESTERN EUROPE'S PRINCIPAL OIL SUPPLY;

-- THE SALT TALKS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION, NOW APPARENTLY APPROACHING FINAL AGREEMENT ON A TREATY TO FURTHER LIMIT STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

-- INFLATION AND THE CONTINUING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED WEST.

CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT IS THE ONLY MAN ATTENDING BOTH MEETINGS AND HE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CARRY NEWS OF ONE GATHERING ON TO THE NEXT.

BY TALKING WITHOUT AN AGENDA -- OR A PROMISED COMMUNIQUE -- WORLD LEADERS HAVE ASSURED THEMSELVES A CHANCE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITHOUT HAVING TO PRODUCE SOMETHING CONCRETE. THE REAL RESULT OF THESE MEETINGS IN JAMAICA AND GUADELUPE MAY NOT BE PUBLICLY KNOWN FOR SOME TIME TO COME.

GH/RCS